Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1804

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS ASEC TU SUBJ: STUDENT DISTURBANCES

REF: (A) ANKARA 9362 (B) IZMIR 334 (C) ANKARA 9278

1. THE RELATIVE STUDENT CALM REPORTED IN REF A. HAS BEEN BROKEN. VIOLENCE IN IZMIR (REF B), ISTANBUL, ANKARA, AND SAMANDAGI IN HATAY PROVINCE, PROMPTED SENSATIONAL GUNAYDIN TO HEADLINE ITS DECEMBER 25 ISSUE "THE 20-DAY CEASEFIRE HAS BEEN BROKEN AND THE STUDENT WAR HAS BEGUN ANEW." IN SEPARATE INCIDENTS IN ANKARA DECEMBER 23-24 ONE STUDENT OF THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND PUBLIC RELATIONS WAS GUNNED DOWN AT NIGHT BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS AND TWO STUDENTS WERE KNIFED AT A DOWNTOWN POST OFFICE.

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2. ON DECEMBER 25 A GROUP OF LEFTIST STUDENTS MARCHED

BETWEEN ANKARA UNIVERSITY'S POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY AND HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY TO PROTEST THE DEATH OF THE JOURNALISM STUDENT, WHOM THE PRESS HAD IDENTIFIED AS A "PROGRESSIVE." LEFTIST YENI ULUS ECHOED NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) CHAIRMAN TURKES' DECEMBER 19 STATEMENT (REF C) THAT IF NAP-AFFILIATED YOUTH WERE ARMED IT WAS AT LEAST WITH WEAPONS "MADE ON THE BLACK SEA OR BY MAKINE KIMYA" (I.E., TURKISH-MADE) BY ASSERTING UNDER A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MURDERED STUDENT THAT HE HAD BEEN KILLED WITH A WEAPON "MADE ON THE BLACK SEA OR BY MAKINE KIMYA."

3. COMMENT: IN IZMIR AND ANKARA THE RENEWED STUDENT VIOLENCE ASSUMED THE FORM OF SEEMINGLY DELIBERATE ATTACKS ON LEFTIST STUDENTS PRESUMABLY BY THE EXTREME RIGHT. AS GOT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES CONTINUE TO FAIL TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACKS ON "PROGRESSIVE" STUDENTS, THE CREDIBILITY AND IMPARTIALITY OF THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT WILL BE FURTHER ERODED AMONG THE LARGE NUMBER OF PRO-REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT RPT NOT AT THIS POINT BEEN MOBILIZED BY THE EXTREME LEFT FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

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